COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Seeks Pay Raise Of 4.5 Percent for Military

A proposed 4.5 percent pay increase for military personnel and federal civilian employees has been sent to Congress by President Johnson.

The actual military pay raise will come in the form of a 5.6 percent raise in base pay, since quarters and subsistence allowances, etc., make up total military pay, to reach an overall 4.5 percent parity with the civilian pay raise.

In his message to Congress, the President said that as civilian pay is increased, similar pay raises should be considered for the nation's armed forces.

Mr. Johnson added that he will recommend further changes in the armed forces pay system when Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara completes a searching review of the underlying principles of the military compensation system.

President Johnson said that "for our military personnel, pay alone can never reflect the full measure of our debts."

He said the nation must assure its fighting men and their families that they will be compensated for their service on a comparable scale to that of their 2.5 million civilian co-workers.

"I recommend an increase in regular military pay similar to the raise for civilians—an average 4.5 percent effective Oct. 1, 1967," President Johnson said.

Defense Secretary Hosts Meeting Of NATO Nuclear Planning Group

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara hosted the Washington meeting April 6-7 of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group.

Established as a permanent NATO organization only last December, the group comprises the defense ministers of Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. NATO Secretary General Manlio Brosio chaired the meeting.

In a pre-conference statement, Secretary McNamara called the conference one of the most important and far-reaching steps of the last decade in the evolution of NATO.

COMMANDERS CONFER—VAdm. Bernard A. Clarey, USN, Commander Second Fleet and Joint Task Force 122, and Army Lt. Gen. J. L. Throckmorton, Commanding General XVIII Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, N.C., discuss Joint Operation Clove Hitch III outside Atlantic Command Operational Control Center, Norfolk, Va. The exercise, being conducted April 8-30 in the Caribbean, involves more than 21,000 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps personnel.

SecDef Points Out Savings In Relocation from France

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said the massive relocation of American forces from France was accomplished at a cost of $150 million instead of an originally estimated $1 billion.

As of April 1966, there were 85,000 military personnel and civilian employees, their dependents and local nationals at 186 installations in France.

Mr. McNamara said about 6,000 U.S. personnel—largely students, teachers and property disposal officials—will remain, with the approval of the French government, until June to ease personal hardships.

He said the relocation to England and Germany would bring an estimated annual savings of at least $50 to $60 million, plus an annual foreign exchange savings between $110-$120 million.

The Defense Secretary noted, however, that these economies would mean little if the relocation had significantly decreased combat readiness.

"But this is not the case," he said. "Combat effectiveness in fulfillment of NATO commitments has been maintained."

Washington Memos

ROBERT E. JOHNSON has been appointed Deputy for Programs Analysis in the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower). His duties will include supervision of studies, analyses and programs for increased effectiveness of Air Force manpower and personnel programs.

ON APRIL FIRST, proficiency pay increases for some 20,000 airmen became effective 90 days ahead of schedule. In December it was announced the increases would be effective July 1. For most airmen the increases mean an additional $30 monthly. About 7,000 airmen are receiving pro pay for the first time under the increase.

ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL Robert M. Williams, deputy commanding general at Ft. Gordon, Ga., has been assigned as Department of Defense Military Attache to Mexico. Gen. Williams will be senior U.S. military attache in Mexico and will be assigned additional duty as Army attache at American Embassy in Mexico City.

PHU CAT RUNWAY construction completed in late March earned a "well done" from Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze. He cited the laying of more than 5,300 feet of concrete in one day. The 10,000 foot long Phu Cat runway was built on time despite constant VC mortar attacks and a two-month construction delay caused by monsoon rains.

FIRST SIGNAL BRIGADE, unit of USASTRATCOM, has completed one year of providing communications in Southeast Asia. Under command of Brig. Gen. Robert D. Terry, brigade's manpower has more than doubled since it was assigned to Southeast Asia April 1, 1966. Today the brigade numbers 17,000.

AUTHORIZATION FOR unaccompanied U.S. citizen dependents for travel outside the U.S. will not be issued until application has been made for the required "no-fee" passports. This policy, effective with travel after June 1, has been passed to major commands by the Air Force passport liaison office. Only exception to the new policy will be where a delay in publication of travel orders would create a family hardship.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY marked 13th anniversary on April 1. Youngest of nation's service schools, Air Force Academy was established in 1954. Its first class used temporary facilities at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colo., in the fall of 1955.

MARINE CORPS IS modifying two M-105 trailers into mobile dental facilities. Basic idea is to have dentist go to patient. Designed to be self-contained and air-transportable, both will be tested in South Vietnam.

AIR FORCE'S OFFICE of Aerospace Research marked its sixth anniversary as a separate Air Force operating agency on April 1. Responsible for conducting Air Force basic research program, OAR was established in a general reorganization of USAF research and development activities. On same date, Air Force Systems Command evolved from old Air Research and Development Command.

U.S. ARMY WAR College will officially dedicate new multi-million dollar academic hall at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., April 29. Dedicatory address will be delivered by Ulysses S. Grant III, grandson of 18th United States President, and son-in-law of Elihu Root, founder of Army's War College, for whom building will be named.

ON APRIL FIRST Federal Aviation Agency was renamed Federal Aviation Administration. Under Department of Transportation Act of Oct. 15, 1966, FAA and all or parts of 30 other government bodies were consolidated into single government department.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has awarded $3.5 million firm fixed price contract to Continental Motors Corp., Muskegon, Mich., for unit exchange of repairable O-470 aircraft engines for new or rebuilt engines. Contract involves a minimum quantity of 1,443 units. The O-70 series engine is used to power Army's O-1 (Bird Dog) liaison-observation fixed wing aircraft.

A B-52 STRATOFORTRESS has been modified to serve as an engine test-bed for the huge 41,000 pound-thrust turbofan designed for the giant C-5A airlifter of the future. The engine is so large it can substitute for two of the B-52 engines. The C-5A is the airlift part of DOD's modern mobility concept. Fast Deployment Logistical Ships (FDL) and multi-role assault and helicopter ships (LHA) make up sealift portion.

AIRLIFT TO NATO has been inaugurated by Military Airlift Command between the United States and the new headquarters at Casteau, Belgium. Brussels is the European terminal. American terminals are either McGuire AFB, N.J., or John Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

UNITED STATES JAYCEES, in cooperation with the Standard Packaging Corp., bestowed special recognition of $1,000 cash grants to three of this country's top physical fitness leaders, April 3. Among those receiving a grant was Major George Otott, USMC commandant of the newly-created Marine Corps Physical Fitness Academy, Quantico, Va. Special plaques were presented to Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Marine Corps commandant, and William McNamara, DOD sports coordinator.

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Army Captains Passed Over Second Time to Be Relieved

Non-regular Army captains passed over the second time for temporary promotion to major will be relieved from active duty under provisions effective with the selection board convened March 6.

The March board used the "best qualified" method. The "fully qualified-not recommended category" was eliminated. Officers will be either recommended for promotion or passed over.

Another board is scheduled for April 25, considering AMEDS lists officers. The "best qualified" method will be used, except for medical and dental corps officers, where the "fully qualified" method applies.

Non-regular officers found "not fully qualified" by a promotion board last year, who are passed over by the March or April board, will be relieved from active duty as prescribed in regulations.

For those who were found "fully qualified-not recommended" by the board last year but who had received a passover by a preceding board, a passover by the 1967 boards will constitute a second passover.

Those passed over by the March or April board for the first time, then passed over by a future board, will normally be relieved from active duty within one year of the second passover.

No individual affected by this policy will be separated before July 1, 1968, except those found "not fully qualified" in 1966 and then passed over by either the March or April board.

Air Force Issues Instructions On Dependent Student Airlift

Major air commands have received instructions for airlifting dependent students via military aircraft during the vacation season.

The students are authorized one space-available round trip annually aboard military aircraft. Most will rejoin military families at overseas locations.

Dependent students enjoy a Category II priority on space-available lists, boarding behind emergency leave travelers, but ahead of ordinary leave passengers.

Air Force said special flights for transporting students are prohibited.

Most students are airlifted on Military Airlift Command passenger aircraft. Others are airlifted on Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve or command organizational aircraft, if configured for passenger use.

Student travelers must have required authorizations, identification credentials and sufficient funds to maintain them while waiting for transportation. Each student is permitted 66 pounds of baggage.

BRIDGE BUSTERS—Four members of the Air Force's "Bulldog" squadron in Vietnam prepare to eliminate from the map the key Bac Giang railway bridge after their flight of F-105 Thunderchiefs dropped the center and southern span of the bridge located northeast of Hanoi. Participating in the flight were (left to right) Capt. Frank A. Buchanan, Maj. John A. Bobel Jr., Maj. Vern Frye and Maj. Ted G. Tolman.

Navy, Marine Corps Change Military Award Procedures

Major changes in the Navy and Marine Corps system of awarding military decorations and medals are now in effect.

One change substitutes typewritten reports by small unit leaders with reporting forms to be filled in by pencil and processed eventually by computer.

Another change will speed up administrative procedures by delegating authority to award the Silver Star and other decorations to the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and a further sub-delegation to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Another change involves modification of unit awards, creating the Meritorious Unit Commendation and redesignating the Navy Commendation for Achievement as the Navy Achievement Medal.

Navy officials said the new procedures will help provide a more proper and timely recognition of service.

Officials said the old peacetime system delayed and discouraged initiation of awards because of paperwork involved.

They stressed, however, that the "traditionally high" Navy and Marine Corps standards for military decorations and medals will be maintained.

The changes were made by the Navy Secretary following a report from an Ad Hoc Committee headed by Adm. George W. Anderson Jr. (ret.).

Asst. Air Force Secretary Completes European Tour

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations and Logistics) Robert H. Charles visited Europe for seven days to discuss with commands the recent relocation of Air Force units from France.

During his trip which began March 28, Secretary Charles discussed logistical support, procurement, air transportation, military assistance and balance of payments.

His trip included visits to Hq., U.S. Air Force in Europe, Wiesbaden, Germany; U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Europe, Stuttgart, Germany; and the 322nd Air Division, High Wycombe, England.

Army Enlisted Promotions Continue to Increase

Army enlisted promotion quotas for April total 105,744, the third largest number since the Korean war.

Gains are noted in each of the higher grades, except E-9, where the authorization remains at last month's high of 192. Quotas for April are 745 E-8s, 2,870 E-7s and 6,590 E-6s.

Authorizations for lower grades are 35,916 E-5s and 59,431 E-4s.

U.S., United Kingdom Agree On Purchase of F-111Ks

The United Kingdom has signed an agreement with the United States for purchase of 40 additional F-111Ks. The UK had already ordered ten of the tactical multipurpose fighters.

The 50 F-111Ks are for use by the Royal Air Force.

Purchase of the 40 F-111Ks materialized from an original agreement which was amended in February 1966.

Action for purchase of the 50 F-111Ks also arose from an overall Anglo-American arrangement governing purchase of aircraft and sales of British defense equipment.

VIETNAM ORIENTATION — Marine Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak (left) is met at Long Binh by Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman, commanding general of II Field Force Vietnam. As Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Gen. Krulak visited II Field Force as part of an orientation visit to Army units in Vietnam.

Laser Beam to Be Used In Measurement Study

Engineers at Ft. Belvoir, Va., will use an instrument with a laser beam to study effects of the earth's atmosphere on precise measurements of distance through the use of light rays.

Developed by the Army Engineer Geodesy, Intelligence and Mapping Research and Development Agency, the prototype "Laser Ultra Distance Measuring Instrument" is designed to measure millimeter changes in the distance to a reflecting target up to 40 miles away.

Army officials said one of the most accurate methods of measuring distance between two points is to time the interval required for a beam of light to make a round trip over a prescribed path. Although done indirectly, accuracies approaching one part in one million are possible.

Present limitations on accuracy, officials said, are caused by small differences in atmospheric pressure and temperature along the line being measured which changes the velocity of light by an unknown amount.

Army Makes First Flight Testing Parawing Concept

Latest version in Army's concept of parachuting, the parawing, was tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., for the first time late last month.

Capable of flying into a wind of nearly 25 miles per hour, the parawing enables a jumper to select his own landing spot instead of following a prevailing wind.

Triangular in shape and suspended above the jumper by riser lines, the parawing comes down at about half the rate of a parachute, which falls about 18 to 20 feet per second.

McConnell AFB Units Win Award for Supply Effort

The base-level supply activity at McConnell AFB, Kans., has been named winner of the 1966 Daedalian Supply Award for Effectivness.

The activity comprises the 835th Combat Group, 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing and 835th Air Division.

Presentation of the award will be made April 29 at the Daedalian's annual meeting in Texas. The Maintenance and Flight Safety Awards will also be presented.

The Tactical Air Command base received the award for providing exemplary supply support to assigned units and demonstrating outstanding management skills.

AF Officer Training School Awards Commissions to 880

Class 67-0 of the Air Force Officer Training School has graduated with commissions awarded to 880 officers.

Of the total, 860 entered active duty, seven were from the Air National Guard and 13 from Air Force Reserve units.

Those entering active duty included seven WAF officers and 30 former airmen who reached OTS through the Airmen Education and Commissioning Program.

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